



## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND  
2531 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY  
ARLINGTON, VA 22242-5160

IN REPLY REFER TO

November 8, 1996

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Department of the Navy is pleased to provide you the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for a Container System for the Management of Naval Spent Nuclear Fuel. The Department of the Navy issued the Draft EIS (DEIS) in May 1996 and held hearings during a 60 day public comment period to inform the public of the DEIS contents and to facilitate the receipt of comments. The FEIS addresses comments received and includes any changes to resolve those comments.

The FEIS has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), and the Chief of Naval Operations Environmental and Natural Resources Program Manual, OPNAV Instruction 5090.1B. The Department of Energy is participating as a cooperating agency and adopted this FEIS (DOE/EIS-0251) on October 9, 1996. Approximately 1300 copies of the FEIS are being mailed to individuals nationwide.

The Navy generates small amounts of spent nuclear fuel as a consequence of the operation of its nuclear powered submarines, aircraft carriers, and guided missile cruisers. The total amount projected to be generated by the year 2035 is 65 metric tons (heavy metal), less than 0.1% of the amount of commercial spent fuel expected by that date (approximately 85,000 metric tons).

The FEIS addresses the need, alternatives, and environmental impacts of manufacturing containers; loading containers; handling and dry storage of naval spent nuclear fuel at the Department of Energy's Idaho National Engineering Laboratory; transportation of naval spent nuclear fuel loaded containers to a notional repository or centralized interim storage site; and the storage, handling, and transportation of certain radioactive waste associated with naval spent nuclear fuel management. Six alternative container systems for the management of naval spent nuclear fuel are evaluated: multi-purpose canisters; current technology; current technology supplemented by high capacity rail; dual-purpose canisters; transportable storage casks; and small multi-purpose canisters. The analysis in the FEIS shows that the environmental impacts are small and comparable among all of the alternatives considered.

Comments on the DEIS were received from a broad spectrum of private citizens, local, state, and federal officials. Native American Tribes and public interest groups also provided comments. Comments are reprinted in the FEIS in Chapter 11, which is new in its entirety. The response to each comment is provided following the

text of the comment. Changes to the remaining portions of the EIS are annotated by sidebars in the margins.

The following factors were considered in identifying a preferred alternative in the FEIS: public comments, protection of human health and the environment, cost, technical feasibility, operational efficiency, regulatory impacts, and storage or disposal criteria which may be established for a repository or centralized interim storage site outside the State of Idaho. Based on evaluation of these factors, the Navy's preferred alternative for a container system for the management of naval spent nuclear fuel is a dual-purpose canister system. The primary benefits of a dual-purpose canister system are efficiencies in container manufacturing and fuel handling operations.

For your information, enclosure (1) contains a list of libraries and reading rooms where copies of the FEIS have been placed.

We appreciate your interest in this matter. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. William Knoll at the Department of the Navy, Code NAVSEA 08U, 2531 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22242-5160 ((703)602-8229).



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for Regulatory Affairs  
Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program

Enclosure

**READING ROOMS AND LIBRARIES**

Copies of the FEIS have been placed in reading rooms and libraries including the following:

**READING ROOMS**

Public Reading Room for U.S. DOE Headquarters 1000 Independence Avenue, SW Room 1E-190 Forrestal Building Washington, DC	Shoshone-Bannock Library Bannock and Pima Streets HRDC Building Fort Hall, ID
Public Reading Room for U.S. DOE - Idaho Oper. Office 1776 Science Center Drive Idaho Falls, ID	Idaho Falls Public Library 457 Broadway Idaho Falls, ID
Public Reading Room for U.S. DOE - Nevada Oper. Office 3004 South Highland Drive Las Vegas, NV	Pocatello Public Library 113 South Garfield Street Pocatello, ID
Flagstaff Public Library 300 West Aspen Street Flagstaff, AZ	Albuquerque Bernalillo County Library 501 Copper NW Albuquerque, NM
Sacramento Library Central Office 828 I Street Sacramento, CA	Deschutes County Library 507 NW Wall Street Bend, OR
Denver Public Library 10 West 14th Avenue Parkway Denver, CO	Salt Lake City Public Library 209 East 500 South Salt Lake City, UT
Boise Public Library 715 South Capital Boulevard Boise, ID	Laramie County Library 2800 Central Avenue Cheyenne, WY

# **LIBRARIES**

Lost River Community Library  
126 South Front Street  
Arco, ID

Idaho State Library  
325 West State Street  
Boise, ID

City of Burley, Public Library  
1300 Miller Avenue  
Burley, ID

Coeur d'Alene Public Library  
201 Harrison Avenue  
Coeur d'Alene, ID

City of Emmett, Public Library  
275 South Hayes  
Emmett, ID

City of Gooding Public Library  
306 5th Avenue, West  
Gooding, ID

Consolidated Free Library  
8385 North Government Way  
Hayden Branch  
Hayden Lake, ID

City of Homedale, Public Library  
125 West Owyhee  
Homedale, ID

Ketchum Public Library  
411 Spruce Avenue North  
Ketchum, ID

University of Idaho Library  
Rayburn Street  
Government Documents  
Moscow, ID

Moscow Public Library  
110 South Jefferson  
Moscow, ID

Ola District Library  
11475 Ola School Road  
Ola, ID

Clearwater Memorial Library  
402 Michigan Avenue  
Orofino, ID

Idaho State University  
741 7th Avenue  
Documents Department  
Pocatello, ID

Salmon Public Library  
204 Main Street  
Salmon, ID

Shoshone Public Library  
211 South Rail Street  
Shoshone, ID

Twin Falls Public Library  
434 2nd Street, East  
Reference Desk  
Twin Falls, ID

Caliente Public Library  
120 Depot Avenue  
Caliente, NV

Carson City Public Library  
900 North Roop Street  
Carson City, NV

Elko Public Library  
720 Court Street  
Elko, NV

Las Vegas Public Library  
833 Las Vegas Boulevard, North  
Las Vegas, NV

Brigham City Library  
20 North Main Street  
Brigham City, UT

Cedar City Library  
136 West Center  
Cedar City, UT

Delta City Library  
76 North 200 West  
Delta, UT

Logan City Library  
255 North Main  
Logan, UT

Marriott Library  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, UT

Lincoln County Public Library  
Alamo Branch  
First West Street  
Alamo, NV

Lincoln County Public Library  
Pioche (Main Branch)  
Number 1 Main Street  
Pioche, NV

Pahrump Public Library  
2101 East Calvado Boulevard  
Pahrump, NV

Smokey Valley Library District  
Hadley Circle  
Round Mountain, NV

Tonopah Public Library  
171 Central  
Tonopah, NV